



Archdiocese of Jaro

CIRCULAR No. 209/04/2008

Prot. No. 0567/2008

February 6, 2008

To: The Reverend Clergy of the Archdiocese of Jaro
All members of the Couples for Christ and Lay Organizations
Re: The Couples for Christ (CFC-FFL and CFC-GMFI)

It is a given fact that there has been an unfortunate split/division within the Couples for Christ, which has become the cause of much anxiety among the members, as well as on the part of Manila-based leaders who disagreed among themselves and failed to settle with forgiveness and reconciliation before their last election.

In the light of what has developed, I would like to make it known to everyone my pastoral directive for all the members of Couples for Christ in the Archdiocese of Jaro:

- 1) That I accept the Couples for Christ – Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL) which is headed by the Global Founder of Couples for Christ, Mr. Frank Padilla, who has been appointed by the Vatican to be a member of the Pontifical Council for the Family and the Pontifical Council for the Laity representing Couples for Christ.
- 2) That I accept the Couples for Christ – Global Mission Foundation, Inc. (CFC-GMFI) presently headed by the elected Atty. Jose Tale, Director.
- 3) That both groups must be faithful to the vision, mission and charism of the original Couples for Christ. They must support each other in their respective apostolate. They must refrain from destructive criticisms, competition and jealousy and manipulative behavior to destroy the other. This is not inspired by the Good Spirit.

I am referring to the leaders of the two groups based in Manila. The couples for Christ in the archdiocese were united under the leadership of Mr. Frank Padilla until the division in the center of leadership occurred.

- 4) That any declaration prohibiting any one of the two groups from using the common identity of "CFC" is contrary to tradition that has been respected and approved by the Church, v.g. there are many Dominican Orders of men and women, but all of them carry the same acronym "OP/ Order of Preachers". There are several Franciscan Orders, but they all carry "OFM", OFM/ Order of Friars Minors, OFM Capuchin, OFM Conventuals. Among the Benedictines, OSB/ Order of St.

Benedict, there are OSB Sylvestrine, OSB St. Benedict, and OSB Subiaco. Each one of them is approved by the Church and follows the Code of Canon Law.

- 5) That in the Archdiocese of Jaro, every effort in charity must be made towards unity recognizing the peculiar role of the Founder of Couples for Christ, Mr. Frank Padilla, and the role of the elected head of the Global Mission, Atty. Jose Tale.

Jesus had only one commandment for all his disciples: *"Love one another as I have loved you"*. (John 13:34) This kind of love has the power to unite even in diversity. Hence, CFC-FFL (under Mr. Frank Padilla) and CFC-GMFI under Atty. Jose Tale, different but united in love and respectful of one another.

We all belong to the one body of Jesus Christ, are enlivened by the same Holy Spirit, under the Fatherhood of God. Recognizing the division and diversity now within the Couples for Christ, it is all the more appropriate to pray with the prayer of Jesus *"Ut unum sint, that they may be one"*. (John 17:21)

Christ's commandment of love, if all practice and obey it, has the power to unite. Do not say *"I am for Paul ... or I am for Apollo."* (1 Cor. 3:4) Rather say *"I am for Christ ... we are all for Christ."* *"You are Couples for Christ and there is only one Christ you worship and serve"*.

May Mary, Mother of Christ, intercede for us.

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+ ANGEL N. LAGDAMEO
Archbishop of Jaro